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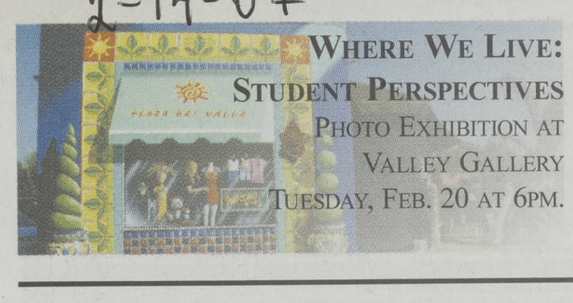
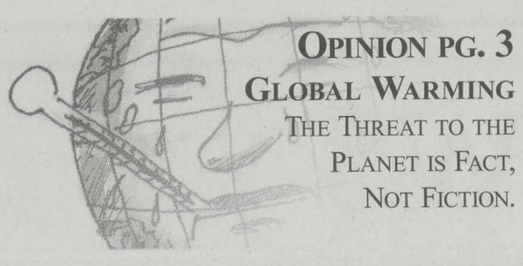
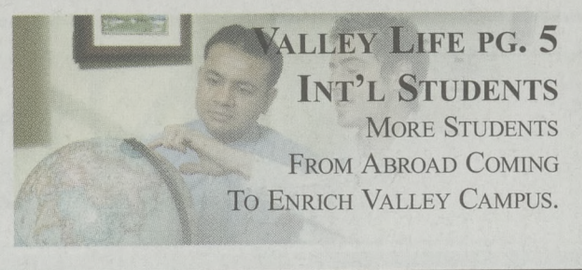


WHERE WE LIVE: STUDENT PERSPECTIVES
PHOTO EXHIBITION AT VALLEY GALLERY TUESDAY, FEB. 20 AT 6PM.



OPINION PG. 3
GLOBAL WARMING
THE THREAT TO THE PLANET IS FACT, NOT FICTION.



VALLEY LIFE PG. 5
INT'L STUDENTS
MORE STUDENTS FROM ABROAD COMING TO ENRICH VALLEY CAMPUS.

GALLERY PG. 6
RITES OF SPRING
FOR ADDITIONAL COVERAGE VISIT THE VALLEY STAR ONLINE.
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VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 66, ISSUE NO. 1 | FEBRUARY 14, 2007 | IT'S *YOUR* PAPER

Spring Break a Chance to Give Back, not Party

BY KRISTEN BECKER
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Valley College instructor Tara Lake plans on turning the traditional Spring Break on its head. She is leading a trip to New Orleans where students will be able to spend their vacation building homes with Habitat for Humanity.

Applications for the week-long trip are still available. Starting April 1, 17 students will spend their time living in dormitory style accommodations at Camp Hope, a converted school in Saint Bernard Parish, which Lake describes as being "like a youth hostel with a purpose." Participants, who will help build homes for victims of Hurricane Katrina, will be expected to work hard, but they can also expect to spend a lot of time exploring the city on learning excursions.

"We really hope that this trip is an opportunity for students to serve, but . . . it is Spring Break after all," Lake said. "We want students to be prepared to work hard, to get dirty and to do something worthwhile for someone else, but at the same time, we want students to know that they are also supposed to have a good time."

Students who are interested must be at least 16 and are required to fill out an application, which includes a 500 word essay and a letter of recommendation as well as a $10 application fee. Perspective participants will also be interviewed in the second round of the process.

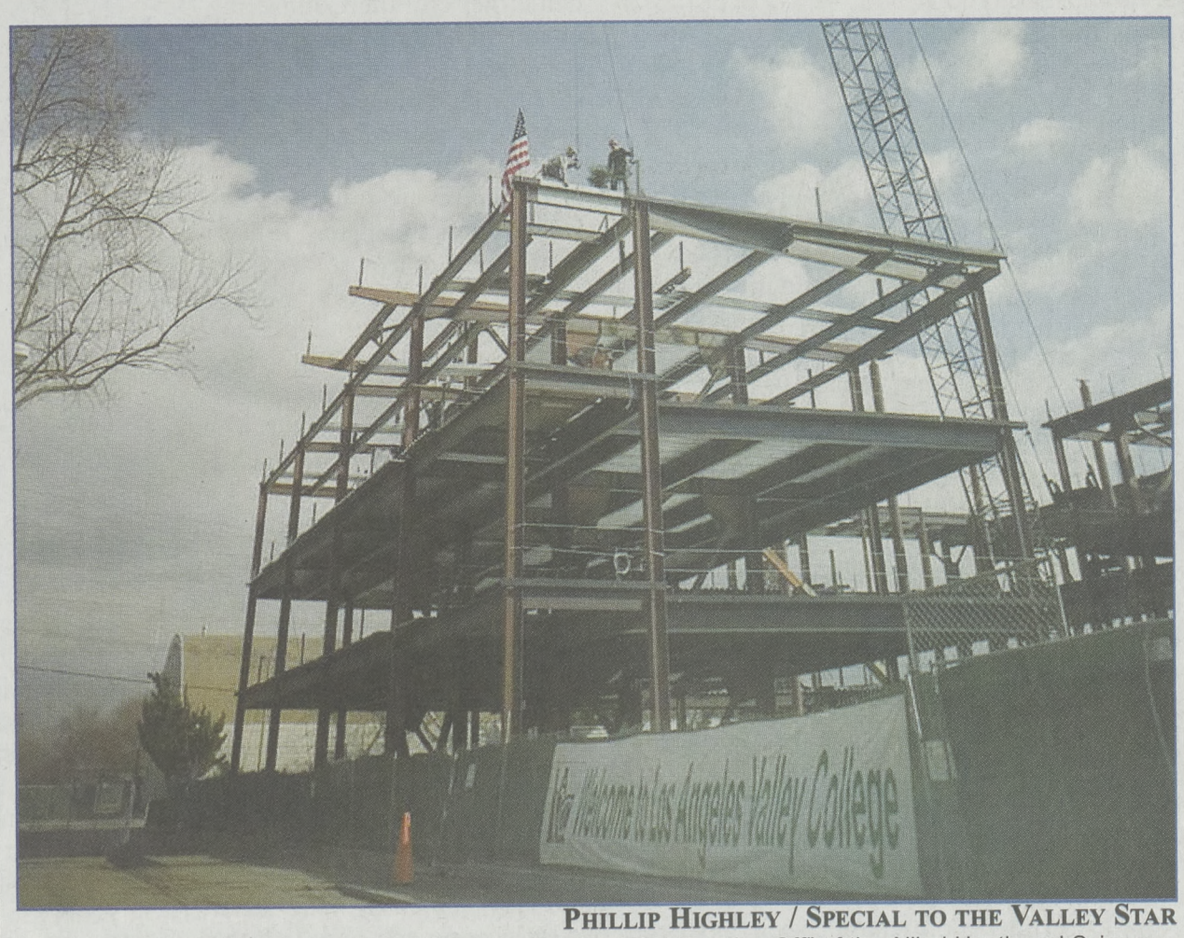
"We're looking for students who are sincere in their interest in really making a difference in the lives of others," said Lake "We are working with homes of people who are disabled and elderly, and so these are people who really need to get back into their homes. We're looking for students who are team players, hard workers, who have leadership qualities and skills who are willing to do the physical work that it's gonna take."

In order to ensure that students will be able to take part in this trip, various fundraisers will be held this month. The money they raise will help offset the cost of the flight to Louisiana.

Danis Fickewirthe, ASU Treasurer, said "We believe in serving the community and

see *'Katrina'* page 4

BUILDING A DREAM



PHILLIP HIGHLEY / SPECIAL TO THE VALLEY STAR

A MOMENT IN TIME- Valley College officials celebrated the "Topping Off" of the Allied Heath and Science Center in late January. The building, located on the southeast end of campus, will be a state-of-the art teaching lab and classroom facility. The event commemorated the placing of the final piece of steel on the building that was signed by department representatives who will use the facility once it's completed.

Book Store Bound by Cost

BY KHARA HUBERMAN
STAFF WRITER

Publishers are bundling new textbook editions with minor changes while making big profits off students.

Textbook prices increased four-fold between 1994 and 2004, according to the Government Accountability Office of Congress and Student Public Interest Research Groups. The groups also found students spend an average $900 per year on textbooks, $420 more than a full-time student pays for tuition.

"Textbook prices are set by the publishers so [the prices] have nothing to do with the college," said Student Services Vice President Yasmin Delahoussaye, an advocate for lower textbook prices. "The question of why [prices] are so high would be a question that I think we would need to pose to the publishers."

Student PIRGs found publishers increase textbook prices by adding bells and whistles —CD-ROMs and workbooks— that many professors say they rarely or never use.

California Student PIRG found that the average release time between editions is 3.8 years rather than five even if content hasn't changed since the previous version. In fact, new editions typically cost 58 percent more.

see *'Books'* page 4

Scholarships Waiting for Applicants

BY DIANA QUEZADA
STAFF WRITER

Having awarded more than $100,000 in scholarships last year, Valley College's Patrons Association makes it possible for students to attend school with ease.

Last year, $106,000 worth of scholarships was awarded to 211 Valley students, up considerably from the $28,000 awarded in 2000. "We're projecting a little more this year in awarding scholarships," said Raul Castillo, executive director of the Patrons Association. "It continues to be our priority."

According to Castillo, many students don't know what a scholarship is. Of nearly 17,000 students enrolled at Valley last year, only 600 applied.

A scholarship is a form of financial assistance made possible by private donations that recognizes a student's work. The donations are given by the faculty and alumni and range from $250 to $1,000.

The lack of student awareness is something Castillo and others at Valley are hoping to change. Journalism major Sarah Bishop recently learned that scholarships are available after two of her professors, Dr. Rafael Arias and Dr. Anthony O'Regan, handed out a flyer about scholarships and briefly discussed the topic with the class.

Bishop, who was on her way to apply for a scholarship when she was interviewed, said the professors encouraged her to take advantage of them.

Castillo says he is working to find new sources for scholarships because the school sees need increasing. Valley students can apply for as many scholarships as they qualify for.

There is an array of scholarships in different areas, including those that relate to specific majors, such as arts, business, foreign language, nursing and many more.

Castillo says that the Patrons Association encourages students to apply for the general scholar-

see *'Scholars'* page 4

Parking Enforcement Takes Modern Turn

BY BRAD TAYLOR
STAFF WRITER

Valley College students saw the future of parking enforcement last week in the form of a sleek three-wheeled, black and white chariot that reminded them that parking is still an issue on campus.

A few observant students and faculty members saw the testing of a new police vehicle at Valley. The new vehicle is called a T3, a zero emission clean energy vehicle that looks like a big brother to the Segway with a third wheel. According to T3motion.com, the small vehicle weighs 240 pounds, logs up to 25 miles on a single charge and clocks in at 25-miles-per hour at its fastest.

The T3 is being tested at Pierce College. It was seen on the Valley campus roaming parking lots, as if practicing for parking enforcement. The T3's ultimate use, if purchased, has yet to be established, according to campus officials.

"The Sheriff's department in general is going to buy 12 of them," said Vice President of Administration Tom Jacobsmeyer. "We might get one to test between all nine campuses to see if we like them."

The T3 costs about $6,000, with operational costs about 25 cents a day. These vehicles have also been tested at USC and other colleges. The Orange County Register reported that the Costa Mesa police tested the T3 and gave it positive reviews, but opted to not use them because their size made them too difficult to store.

"I liked it a lot," said Valley security officer Roger Thompkins, who tested the T3. "It gets you where you're going, and you can turn it 180 degrees, while a golf cart takes a three-point turn."

Seeing the T3 being tested underscores how serious campus police are with parking enforcement at Valley.

see *'T3'* page 4

VALLEY PEOPLE

Yee Ready for Change at New Post as Dean

BY KRISTEN BECKER
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Carol Yee, Valley College's new Dean of Curriculum, is committed to keeping the school's offerings up-to-date and user friendly.

As Dean of Curriculum, Yee is responsible for the creation of the Catalog and the Schedule of Classes. She is also in charge of curriculum development and ensuring that new courses get through the process needed in order for them to become a part of the catalogue.

Before coming to Valley last month, Yee was the Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs at New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in Socorro, New Mexico. She plans on ensuring that the college's programs and course offerings are able to adapt to changing times.

"As Curriculum Dean, I'm really keeping my ears open …[to] what kinds of curriculum developments the community might be interested in … because it's a fast-changing world out there," she said.

Yee understands the need for educational institutions to shift their academic focus as the needs of the community change. While she was at New Mexico Tech, she saw first-hand how a university could modify its curriculum in order to keep up with the demands of its students.

She explained that after 9/11, the school went from focusing on mining technology to "ways of understanding explosives and protecting against explosives." "Now they offer lots of training programs that help people understand what to do in the case of some sort of bomb threat," Yee explained. While she understands that this example may not be pertinent to the community at Valley, it illustrates her willingness to adapt as the world changes.

Tyree Wieder, President of Valley, is encouraged by the fresh perspective Yee brings to her position. "It's very easy to do something because we've always done it a certain way, but when a new person comes in, I think they do have the ability then to question why we're

see *'Yee'* page 4

RICARDO BARRERA / VALLEY STAR

CHANGING FACE - Curriculum Dean Carol Yee is taking on her job with an open mind, making materials easy to access and keeping up with techonogical advances.

Valley College Services That Students Should Know About

BY JESSICA SHAFFER
OPINION EDITOR

For new students, entering college is a difficult experience. With everything a student has to do in the first few days of school, such as registering for classes, paying for classes and buying books, it is easy to overlook some opportunities that make an education at Valley College much simpler. Valley offers many programs designed to make academic life better for students, like money for school and books, inexpensive health care, and places to find jobs.

Financial Aid

The Financial Aid Office helps students pay for their education by awarding grants, scholarships, federal work-study and student loans. Grants and scholarships do not have to be repaid. For instance, The Board of Governors Fee Waiver Program waives enrollment fees for students. Students do not need to take 12 units to receive financial aid; nor do they need a 4.0 grade point average to qualify.

Students are considered for all types of financial aid when they complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The Financial Aid Office has a computer lab where students can file their application on-line. The deadline to submit the FAFSA is May 3, 2007.

The Financial Aid Office is located in a blue bungalow between the Campus Center and the North Gym. For the first two weeks of the new semester some financial aid services are offered in the Fireside Room in the Campus Center. Students need to bring a photo ID.

Buying Books

Students can also find alternate sources to buy books on campus. The Associated Student Union (ASU) posts bulletin boards in Monarch Hall and the Campus Center that allow students to buy, sell or trade textbooks directly to other students.

Student Services also offers the Pat Allen Emergency Book Loan Program, which loans students up to $150 to pay for their books that they must later repay. The program is first come first serve because it has a limited amount of money available. EOPS also offers partial book vouchers to help their students pay for their books.

Academic Counseling

Academic counselors are available in the Administration Building to help students achieve their academic goals. Counselors advise students on what classes they need to fulfill their requirements, help them apply to four-year colleges and universities, tell students about financial aid possibilities and help the students achieve their academic goals.

Counselors are available by appointment for 30-minute academic advising sessions or shorter drop-in sessions. Appointments are made on Tuesdays and students can either call the Counseling Department or make an appointment in person.

Through counseling students can become a member of the Transfer Alliance Program (TAP), which is an honors program designed to help students transfer. TAP students are required to have a minimum 3.25 grade point average and they must take certain classes.

Academic counseling is also available through programs like Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS), which is a program designed to help low-income, full-time students who are not prepared for college level English or math.

Student Health Services

Valley students are eligible for free medical care in the Student Health Center, located in the North Gym. The center offers physical exams, blood pressure screenings, vision tests, breast exams, STD and HIV screenings and lab work at little or no cost. Students pay for the services with their student health fee that they pay at the beginning of the semester.

Students can make an appointment by calling (818) 947-2918 to see a primary care physician or physician assistant, although urgent care and same-day visits are also available. To receive service students must bring a photo I.D. and a registration receipt to prove that they are currently enrolled.

The Student Health Center also offers free psychological counseling services to help students deal with the pressures of everyday life. Students can call (818) 778-5504 to make an appointment with a clinical psychologist.

Job Resources

The Valley College Job Center, in Bungalow 48, has other employment opportunities for students outside of federal work-study programs. The Job Resource Center has a program called Cooperative Education that allows students to get up to four units of course credit per semester for working and that credit is transferable to California State Universities.

Cooperative Education students must attend two seminars or complete on-line assignments. Students can apply for the program until Feb. 15.

The Job Resource Center also posts job information on bulletin boards both inside and outside the office. Anyone can apply for a job from the bulletin boards.

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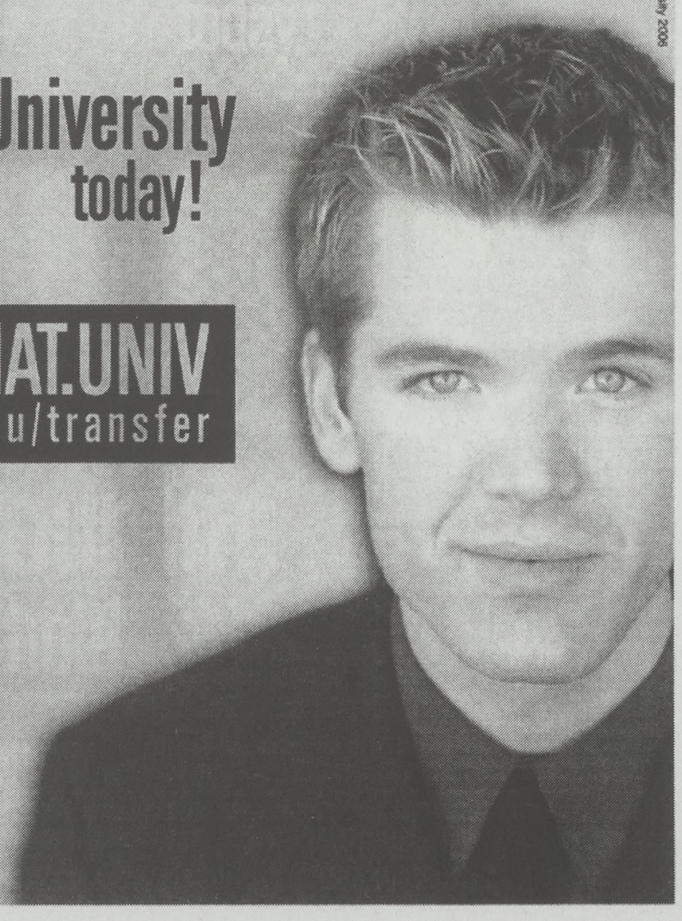

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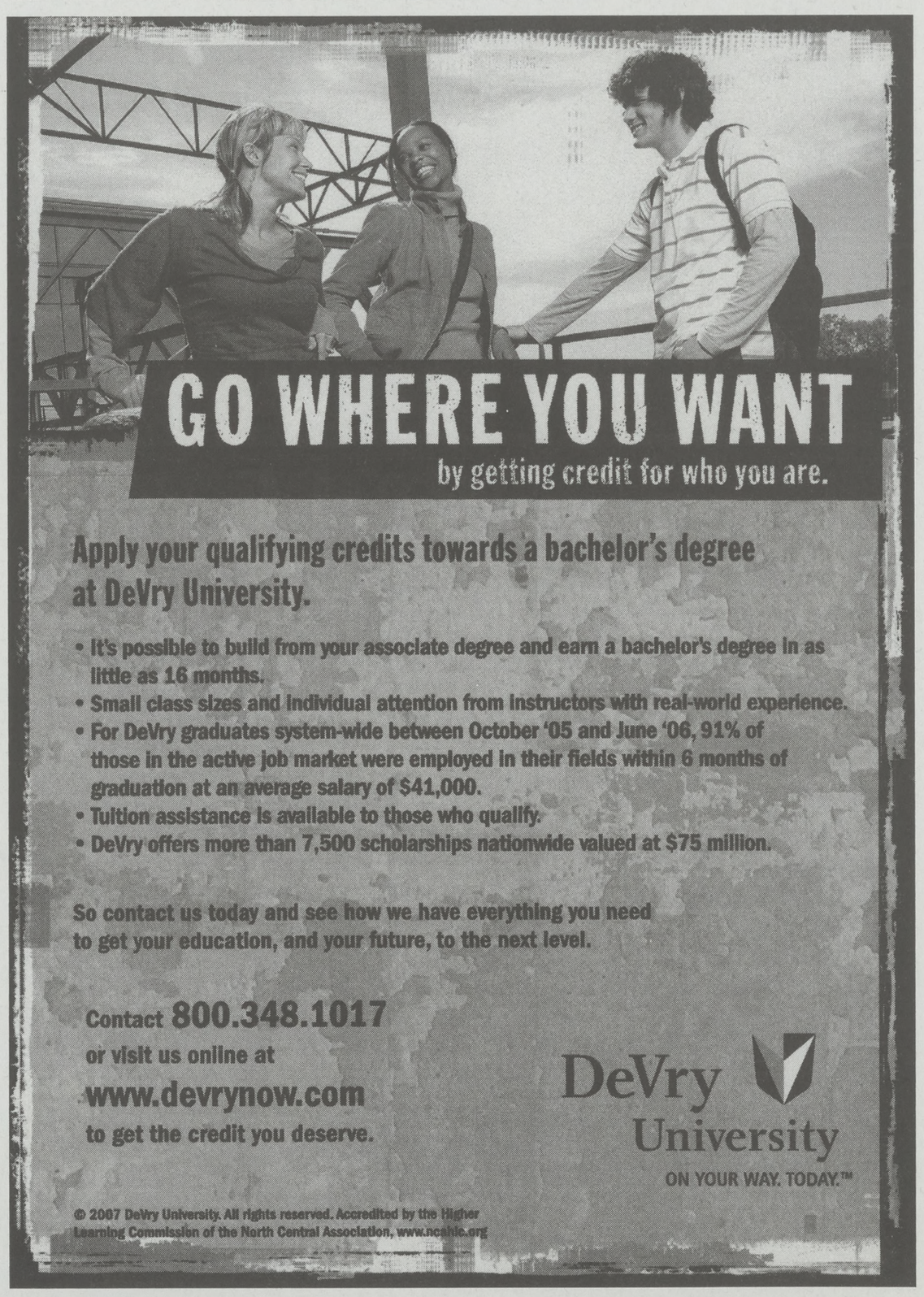
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OPINION

AN OPINION

Global Warming Real Threat

BY DIANA QUEZADA
STAFF WRITER

Grab your snorkels and scuba gear because at the rate we're polluting the earth, we'll soon be living underwater and swimming to school.

With pollution skyrocketing, global warming is speeding up the melting of glaciers and arctic ice sheets, causing sea levels to rise in what will lead to dangerous flooding.

According to Al Gore's documentary "An Inconvenient Truth," the melting glaciers may cause sea levels to ascend as much as 20 feet higher than they are now, swallowing coastal cities across the world.

The unrestrained waters would do more than just take our cities.

"The World Trade Center Memorial would be underwater," said Gore.

The melting glaciers aren't the only factor causing the threat of floods. As the earth's temperature increases due to elevated amounts of carbon dioxide from cars and other pollutants, water begins to expand.

If an average drop of only 5 degrees Celsius over thousands of years can cause an ice age, imagine what could happen if the temperature increases a few degrees?

"An Inconvenient Truth" depicts spectacular images of our planet with physical proof that global warming is occurring. Gore is clear and accurate throughout the film, making it easy to learn about the imminent threat.

Despite the obvious truths shown in the appropriately titled film, many people still foolishly refuse to believe that global warming is occurring.

This isn't because information isn't available or is unclear, but rather because people are simply in denial and unwilling to sacrifice their luxuries for the earth's benefit.

ILLUSTRATION BY RICARDO BARRERA / VALLEY STAR

That mentality is one many Americans have adopted straight from President Bush, who chose saving money over environmental stability when he pulled the United States out of the Kyoto Protocol in 2001.

Adopted in December 1997, the Protocol went into effect on February 16, 2005. It is the first international agreement to fight global warming by reducing greenhouse emissions to about 5 percent below 1990 levels, according to the Energy Information Administration.

Despite the fact that our country releases more greenhouse gases than any other nation, Bush dismissed the Protocol as too costly and "an unrealistic and ever-tightening straitjacket."

Rightfully so, Gore accused Bush of showing the world "a stunning display of moral cowardice."

Once upon a 1492, Christopher Columbus believed that the earth was round, along with Greek philosopher Aristotle, who first theorized that the earth was spherical because of the circular shadow it cast on the moon.

Even though their evidence proved that the earth was round, popular belief was that it was flat, and the majority of the population thought they were crazy.

Now, people that believe the earth is flat are the crazy ones.

Apparently history repeats itself. You can slap someone with hard evidence proving global warming is occuring, but ignorance paired with stubbornness is like a horse with blinders.

While the greenhouse effect, which keeps the earth warm enough for survival, is often deemed one of the biggest factors in global warming, it isn't entirely to blame. What are to blame are our reckless activities that add to the warming trend.

Something as simple as buying more organic foods could remove 580 billion pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Another thing that contributes to the greenhouse effect is methane, the main component of natural gas.

Methane is produced by the decomposition of trash in landfills and the digestive gases from living organisms including cattle, termites, and yes, humans.

So the next time you hear someone in the grocery store pass gas, don't hesitate to inform them that methane is a huge contributor to global warming as you direct them to the Gas-X aisle.

As weather patterns change and the risk of natural disasters heightens, health problems are also becoming a fear for many.

"[With] what we have to breathe now, you can't even see a few miles down the valley," said Kinesiology major Bryan Katz, who believes that global warming is affecting our health.

The evidence is staring us in the face and people still refuse to believe it. Unfortunately most of them won't take any actions to stop it until we're up a creek without a paddle.

AN OPINION

Republicans Desperate to Stifle Debate on Iraq

■ Ignoring the desire of the American public, Republican senators blocked a debate on the president's policy in Iraq

BY KRISTEN BECKER
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Last November, Americans used their votes to send a clear message to our elected officials in Washington — we wanted an end to the war in Iraq. Despite the results of the midterm elections, which gave Democrats majorities in the House and Senate, Republicans still feel they can ignore the American public.

There are currently four non-binding resolutions discussing President Bush's plan to send an additional 21,500 troops to Iraq proposed in the Senate. Two condemn the escalation, one supports the president's plan and the last opposes any cuts in funding for the war. One of the resolutions opposed to the troop surge is sponsored by Republican Sen. John Warner of Virginia and is receiving increased support among members of both parties. Despite this bipartisan support, many Republican senators decided to block a debate on all of these resolutions.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell explained the motives behind the filibuster saying, "We [Republicans] are, in effect, being denied a fair process for the extremely important debate."

Americans are the ones being denied a fair political process. For almost four years, Republican control of the House and Senate meant that there was little debate on the president's policies in Iraq and the Middle East and almost no oversight. Rather than fulfilling their duty to be a check on the president and prevent him from abusing the powers of his office, Republicans (and the Democrats who refused to speak out) allowed the Bush administration to mismanage the war in such a way that it has completely spiraled out of control.

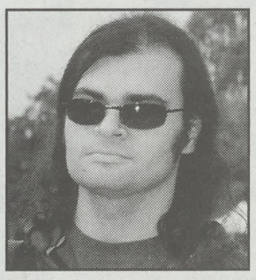
During a speech on the floor of the Senate, House Majority Leader Harry Reid explained the importance of debate on the war. "As senators, we owe it to our troops and our people to have a real debate about the way forward in Iraq," the Nevada Democrat said. "For four years, this body has sat silent on the most pressing issue facing our country. As thousands of our soldiers were killed and tens of thousands wounded, the Senate sat silent."

Although the filibuster is an important tradition that gives the minority a voice in the government, the fact that it was abused to silence a debate that should have happened four years ago is a slap in the face to American democracy.

Campus View

PHOTOS BY CLAUDIA RIVERA
TEXT BY WILL REYES

Do You Think America Is Ready To Elect A Woman Or Minority President?



"I don't see why not. It doesn't matter what their race or sex is, but how they do their job."

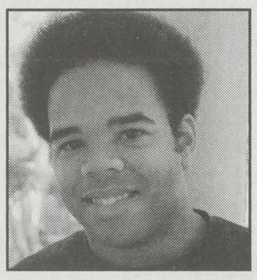
Evan Darlington
Respiratory Therapy

"I think so, women and minorities are just as qualified as anybody else."

Sarah Meseberg
Accounting

"I'm ready for a woman president, but I don't think America is ready yet."

Jessica Seals
Music/Optometry



"I don't think so because sexism and racism are still big here. No matter what they try to say, it still exists."

J.D. Mitchell
Theatre

AN OPINION

Presidency Should No Longer Belong to White Males

BY JESSICA SHAFFER
OPINION EDITOR

The recent announcements by women and minorities of their candidacy for president has many Americans questioning if the United States is ready to elect a leader who isn't a white male. The acceptance of black Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois and Former First Lady and Sen. Hillary Clinton of New York as legitimate choices proves it's quite possible for a female or minority candidate to become America's next Commander in Chief.

Former First Lady Hillary Clinton has the highest name recognition out of all of the candidates running for president and that puts her ahead of the other candidates.

Sen. Obama is also considered one of the main contenders for the Democrats. He is known for his ability to draw a crowd and is an outstanding fund-raiser. An early poll by the Concord Moniter has shown Obama ahead of Clinton by a small margin.

Every president in our country's 231-year history has been a Protestant white male. In 1960, America went into an uproar because John F. Kennedy was a Catholic. 2004 Presidential Candidate John Kerry is a Catholic, but his religion was not an issue during his campaign.

In the nearly 50 years since the Kennedy election, America has clearly evolved enough to elect a female or minority president. Since then, a woman was the Democratic vice presidential candidate in 1984 election and both Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton have run for the Democratic Party's nomination.

America is a diverse country, but so far its leaders have not reflected that diversity; politics have been largely dominated by a small segment of the population. The 2008 presidential election could easily change this.

Because no women or minorities have become president so far, many question whether it is even possible. This type of thinking is the reason no minorities or women have become president yet – because people question the viability of a candidate, voters have been reluctant to give minorities a chance. If the voters do not believe that it is possible, then it won't be possible.

Only a few months ago, Democratic Representative Nancy Pelosi became the first female Speaker of the House and second in line to become president after Dick Cheney. This is the highest position in U.S. Government that a woman has ever occupied. Is it really such a leap for a woman to become president?

The United States has set the standards for democracy and equality, yet we are behind many other nations that have had female leaders. They include Margaret Thatcher of Great Britain, Angela Merkel of Germany, Golda Meir of Israel, Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan, Indira Ghandi of India, Corazon Aquino of the Philippines, and Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia.

Minorities have been rising in political prominence. With political heavy hitters like former Secretary of State Colin Powell and current Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, a black president is not hard to imagine. Black people as group are already a powerful political force. It would not be a surprise if Obama ended up with the Democratic nomination.

Today, a female or minority candidate can become President of the United States, which is something that would never have been possible a few decades ago. Now it is not only possible, but likely.

We want to hear what you think!

Send letters to the editor to thevalleystar@yahoo.com -- Letters should be no longer than 300 words, include a subject line of "Letters to the Editor" and are subject to editing.

'Katrina'

continued from page 1

that [the trip is] a wonderful opportunity for the students to do service."

In addition to donating money for the trip, the ASU set up a teddy bear sale just in time for Valentine's Day on Feb. 8, 9 and12. Each bear will cost $5 and the proceeds of the sale will go to helping pay for the trip. The Black Student Union will be holding the Los Angeles Valley College Mardi Gras and African Marketplace on Feb. 21, which will also raise money for the trip.

Students can download the application from LAVC's homepage or pick one up in the Patrons Association office in Administration 100 or in the ASU's office in Campus Center 102. All applications for the trip are due Feb. 20.

'Yee'

continued from page 1

doing it," Wieder said. "They're not questioning because it's wrong or anything, but they want to understand why we're doing it that way and in questioning it, that makes us reevaluate why we're doing something in a particular way."

Although Yee had only been on the job for a month, she is already finding ways to make sure students are able to use the resources provided by her office. In addition to keeping Valley's offerings current, Yee is also concerned about "trying to look at ways to make the publications out of [her] office, the Schedule of Classes and the Catalog, as user friendly as possible and still be informative and accessible to the people who need to use it."

Carly Tronto, Vice President of Academic Affairs, said of Yee, "She's very interested in reducing barriers for student access, for student learning, for faculty access, for faculty to get things done that they need done."

'T3'

continued from page 1

With new students and returning students filling up the parking lots, it can be tough to find a space, but even tougher if you do not have a parking pass. In addition, the two-week grace period for students parking in lots without a $20 permit ends Tuesday.

"They check here all the time," said broadcasting major Jackie Ochoa "And if you pay the ticket after the due date they charge you more."

In 2006 there were 6,102 parking citations issued, with an average ticket cost of $35. Last year, the college collected $40,000 on parking tickets, with the money headed to the general fund to help pay for such things as landscaping and other campus upkeep. The money also helped pay for three new white golf carts that will be used to help escort students to their cars at night.

"We prefer that they buy the parking pass as opposed to get the parking ticket." Jacobsmeyer said. "There's a lot less angst in the parking pass and it is also cheaper."

The passes are available at the Business Office in the Campus Center.

'Scholars'

continued from page 1

ships.

Applying for a scholarship at Valley is as easy as applying for admission. All students have to do is read over the criteria and if the requirements are met fill it out and turn it in. Some scholarships require transcripts, letters of recommendation, or essays. But don't let that be a discouragement. The Patrons Association has the students' best interest in mind. "But you have to prove you deserve it," said Castillo.

Winners and donors will be invited to attend the Scholarship and Awards Night that will take place on May 17. It's a great way for the donors to see how they helped a student benefit and possibly donate again, according to Castillo. "Scholarships provide financial assistance and helps students to achieve goals and hopefully one day [they will] return the favor."

Scholarships are offered only during the spring semester, from January 22 to March 9. The Patrons Association strives to award more scholarships. "It will benefit the students," said Castillo. "It will motivate them…it's gratifying for me."

Being that scholarships are private donations and not government funded such as FAFSA, they are more flexible. However, not all students can apply for scholarships because it can affect their financial aid. Students are encouraged to check with the Financial Aid office to see if and how it can affect them.

Many international students that don't qualify for financial aid can apply for scholarships.

With faculty and the Patrons Association's marketing and education efforts, students are being informed about scholarships.

Stop by the Administration building in room 100 for a list of available scholarships, to apply for a scholarship, to get general information, or to even become a donor. Raul Castillo and his assistant Eileen Pearl, who has a scholarship in her name, are ready to answer any questions and provide students with any information you may need to make the application process easier.

Students should also be aware of the many non-campus scholarships available. Some of these include the Microsoft Scholarship, Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, and the Hispanic Scholarship Fund. Maybelline Cosmetics together with MTV launched a $25,000 Born to Achieve scholarship in January. Information about non-campus scholarships can be obtained from Trish Gonzalez in the Admissions building.

'Books'

continued from page 1

Valley College bookstore manager Claudette Burns said, "If a book is used, I don't think it has an impact [but] if students have to buy books that are never referred to in class, I think [it] gives a negative feel for 'Why should I buy a textbook if I never had to look at it?'"

Burns' estimates English books range about $30 to $50 and math books $72 to $100.

"The [price of] math books is a little out there," said business major Shaun Johnson, who feels buying a new book has no point when he can buy used books at cheaper prices.

Jose Martinez, an accounting major, said, "I couldn't take four or five classes in previous semesters because of those damn book prices."

Although Valley is not to blame for high book prices, professors can help students who can't afford books by placing reference copies in the library.

Students have other sources for buying new and used books at cheaper prices.

ASU has created the book exchange program allowing students to buy and sell books to others.

ASU is also leading a petition against publishers to reduce textbook prices, give faculty and students the option of buying textbooks separate from bells and whistles, and keep editions on the market as long as possible without sacrificing educational content.

ASU Secretary Guadalupe Burgara, a kinesiology major and supporter of the petition, said, "I think students' [book prices] would be more reasonable than the student store."

Bobbi Ablan, an undecided major looking for textbooks on the ASU book exchange board, said she buys books from the bookstore, but tries online and alternative options first.

Martinez said, "I gave up on the bookstore and I stick to Half.com or Amazon.com where I know I won't be cheated."

Have a story idea? Stop by the newsroom in BJ 114 and let us know!

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VALLEY LIFE

WEDNESDAY TO TUESDAY

Wednesday, Feb. 14

Valentine's Day/ National Condom Day

Monday, Feb. 19

Presidents' Day

Tuesday, Feb. 20

Opening Reception for "Where We Live: Student Perspectives" @
Valley Art Gallery; 6 - 9 p.m.

Think Transfer!

Thursday, Feb. 15
Deadline to update Fall 2007 UC Application

Tuesday, Feb. 20
CSU Northridge
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 5 - 7 p.m.

CSU Los Angeles
5 - 7 p.m.

Undecided Majors/ Career Workshop
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 21
Mount St. Mary's College
9 - 11 a.m.

Thursday, Feb. 22
Job Shadowing Orientation
1 - 2 p.m.

Antioch University
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 26
Financial Aid Workshop
1 - 2 p.m.

CSU Long Beach
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Valley Attracts Foreign Students

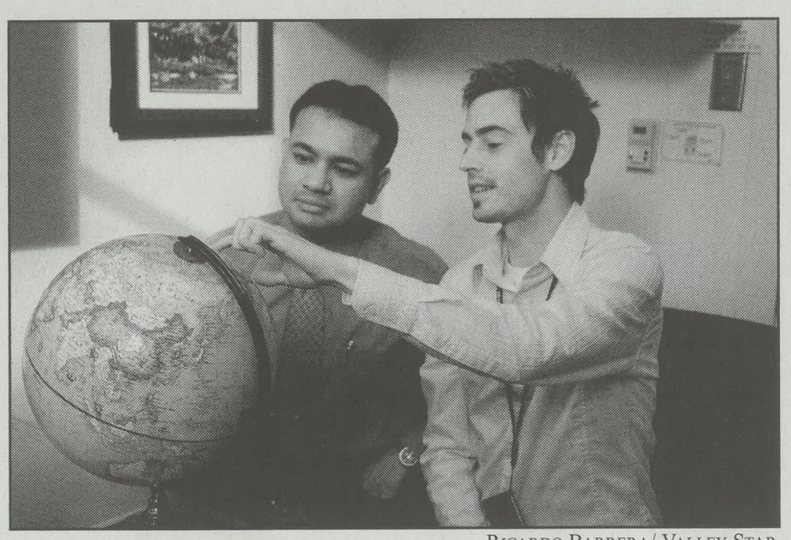
BY ASTRID SEIPELT
STAFF WRITER

You might not know it, but Valley College plays host to a growing number of international students each semester. They travel from all over the world to further their education and gain a cultural experience that only studying in a foreign country can provide. But it's not just the international students learning new cultures.

"Enriching the student body of Valley College is what the International Student program is all about," said Syed Hussain, the International Retention Services Coordinator.

The International Student program, which has been running since 2003, now has just over 80 students enrolled, with 22 students starting Spring 2007. Students have the choice of completing an Associate Degree, Transfer Program or Occupational Certificate. Hussain said that having international students at Valley could help both teachers and students in learning about our world and the diverse people in it. His goal is to have more than 500 international students enrolled and to make Valley a major college choice for foreign students.

"Valley offered me an entry point into multicultural learning and a great range of classes," said Architecture major Jacob Bowers, who is in his first semester at Valley. "I miss the lifestyle and my friends from home, [but] on the other hand, it's interesting to see life from a different point of view." The 29-year-old Canadian, who said he plans to transfer to CSUN and obtain his bachelor's degree, is just one of many students looking forward to the new avenues that attending Valley offers them.



RICARDO BARRERA/ VALLEY STAR

Around the Globe - Canadian student Jacob Bowers points out his home country to International Services Coordinator, Syed Hussain

"It's exciting to have so many opportunities to advance my career and get some hands-on film experience," said Cinema major Katherina Nimmervol, who came from Austria with hopes of transferring to UCLA. "The possibilities here are amazing, there are job opportunities in Los Angeles that I can't get at home."

New International students coming to Valley also experience what can sometimes be a stunning cultural shift.

"Sri Lankans are very private, and it was a culture shock to see how outgoing Americans are," said Nursing student Tina Guruge. The 28-year-old came to Valley in 2000 from Sri Lanka to pursue her nursing degree after being interested in living in another country. After living in the United States for more than seven years, she has learned many valuable life skills beyond just education.

It's those types of experiences that Hussein feels reward both Valley and the students.

"It's an exciting thing to meet new people and the internationals are an exciting group," said Hussein. "We can only benefit from seeing young people from all over the world on campus."

Fans Create Rules in the Movie World

BY JOSH SPENCE
STAFF WRITER

A fanboy is defined as an overzealous fan of geek culture, like anime, video games, science fiction or fantasy. Years of ridicule have led the fanboy into exile, hiding behind the computer keyboard or in the basement hosting another round of Dungeons & Dragons.

Ever since Hollywood began using comic books and graphic novels as a breeding ground for cash cow franchises, for example "X-Men," "Batman," and "Sin City," fanboys serve as built-in focus groups and double as watchdogs over their beloved paper heroes.

The key ingredient to making a good film great has been the presence of the much maligned and utterly crucial fanboy. The movie industry may see this as demographic upkeep. Movie fans should consider them a shield of vision and integrity to the superheroes many have grown up with.

Having a directly indirect influence on some of the most anticipated films, fanboys have the ability influence the portrayal of characters or the aesthetics during movie production via the all-powerful message board.

The "Transformers" movie is most recent example of this newfound power. Producer Don Murphy displayed early prototypes of transformers Optimus Prime and Megatron seeking fan input. Murphy has even posted message boards on the official movie website for constant fan participation.

Through the message boards, fanboys are responsible for changing the design of Megatron by condemning the original prototype, creating the movie tagline, and most importantly, aiding in the return of Peter Cullen, the original voice of Prime.

Ever since Hollywood began using comic books . . . as a breeding ground for cash cow franchises, fanboys . . . serve as built-in focus groups and double as watchdogs over their beloved paper heroes.

The message board is an equally powerful tool in generating movie buzz. "Transformers" is still in production, but leaked photos have made their way to many fansites and every photo has a film copyright. Articles in magazines like "Empire" and "Sight and Sound" are great, but the hardcore fans are going to find the photos on fansites days before the magazine's release.

This technique is also used to leak names for high profile roles in upcoming films such as "The Dark Knight," the sequel to "Batman Begins." Within minutes that information is posted all over fansites, eliciting reactions from fanboys.

Although "The Dark Knight" doesn't come out until next year, devoted fansites were eager to announce Heath Ledger was cast as the Joker before the official press release. The script is still being written for "The Dark Knight," but fans already speculate about wjhich villains will be written into the story and who will play them.

This new era of constant information, speculation, and fan participation might seem invasive, but in an increasingly cutthroat business, producers want to make a hit. Does a movie made for the people by the people necessarily equal box office success?

Fanboys have the power to determine whether a movie will be a success with their support. Conversely, constant negative skepticism could cause a movie to fail before it hits the theatres.

While some directors only care about the newest technology, someone needs to defend artistic vision. It's not the mob that rules, it's the fanboys.

SPORTS

LAVC SCHEDULE

Thursday 2/15/07

Baseball against Moorpark@ Valley
2 p.m.

Softball @ Santa Barbara City College
2:30 p.m.

Friday 2/16/07

Baseball @ Moorpark
2 p.m.

Softball @ Pasadena
1 p.m.

Saturday 2/17/07

Basketball @ College of the Canyons
5:30 p.m.

Baseball against Moorpark @ Valley
1 p.m.

Tuesday 2/20/07

Softball against Allan Hancock @ Valley
2:30 p.m.

Thursday 2/22/07

Softball against Moorpark @ Valley
2:30 p.m.

Friday 2/23/07

Baseball @ Cypress
2 p.m.

Softball against American River @ Valley
12 p.m. and 2 p.m.

Monday 2/26/07

Softball against Fullerton @ Valley
3 p.m.

Tuesday 2/27/07

Baseball @ College of the Canyons
2 p.m.

Mallas and Monarchs Defeat Dons

BY GRANT BOMANN
STAFF WRITER

Valley College Baseball Coach Dave Mallas led the Monarchs to defeat his former team, the Santa Ana Dons, in the first game of a doubleheader on Saturday 2-1 at Santa Ana college.

The Santa Ana game was the second game of the four game Casey Stengal Tournament. Mallas played under Santa Ana coach Don Sneddon for the Dons in '94 and '95 where he won a California Community College Baseball Championship. Coach Sneddon set the record for most wins as a community college coach, recording his 832 victory last season.

"Anytime you can beat a mentor it feels good," Mallas said.

It was an impressive win for the Monarchs. Santa Ana has been known as one of the best community college baseball programs in California. The Dons have won 11 conference championships and appeared in six state championship games, winning three. This included a record four straight championship appearances from '93 to '96."

Monarchs' starting pitcher Jordan Brandt shut down the Dons for eight innings, only allowing one run on six hits while striking out eight. "Nothing is stronger than determination and when you stay focused for an entire nine-inning game, not many people can beat you," said Brandt.

Thomas Cassidy hit a solo homerun in the second inning to give the Monarchs an early 1-0 lead. Drew Vassil scored on a passed ball in the fifth inning for a 2-0 lead. That was all Jordan Brandt and Ivan Gonzales needed as they combined to give up one run.

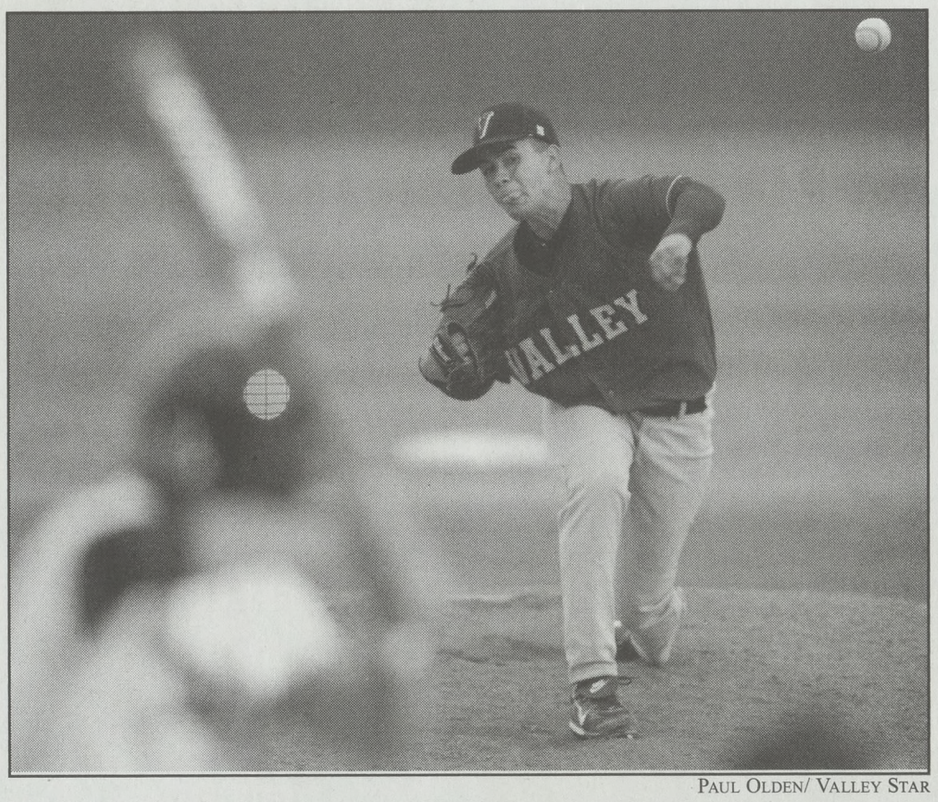
Gonzales came on to get the save in the ninth inning to preserve a 2-1 victory for the Monarchs.

Valley went 1-3 on the weekend. In the second game of Saturday's doubleheader, the Monarchs lost to Golden West 13-12 in a slugfest. Valley outfielder Robin Vyas started the hitting in the first inning as he led off the game with a homerun.

Valley played catch-up most of the game; as they would give up a couple runs, then get them back, then give up a couple more, then get them back again. Trailing 13-7 in the ninth inning, the Monarchs put together a valiant comeback scoring 5 runs, led by a Trevor Arroyo 2-RBI double.

They just couldn't muster up a 13th run as Thomas Cassidy grounded out to end the game.

The Monarchs lost to Cerritos College 12-9 on Friday. The pitching staff struggled for the Monarchs as they walked 11 batters and hit two. Angel Nunez went 2-4 with 2 runs scored and 2 RBI, but it wasn't enough as the Monarchs came up short.



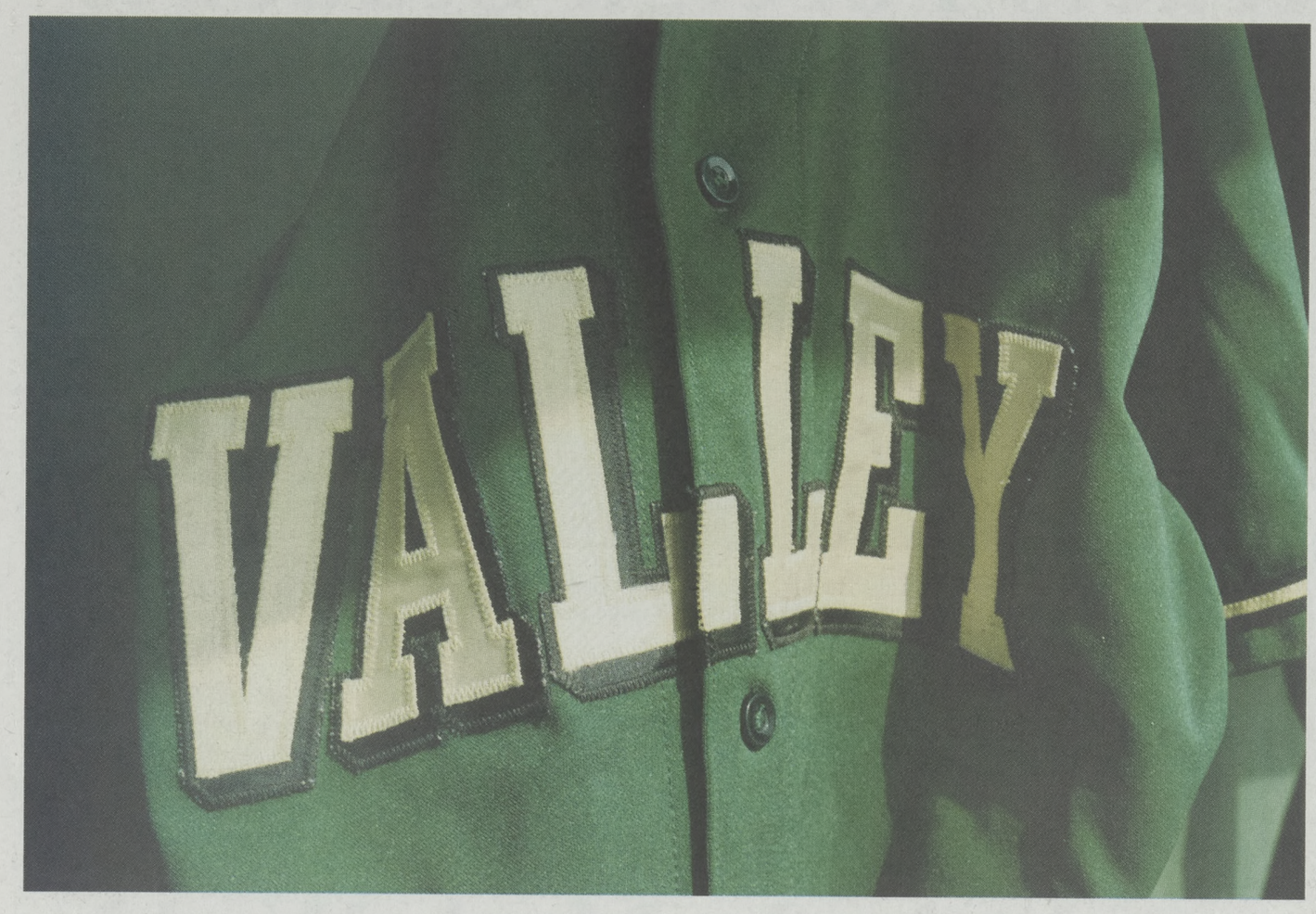
PAUL OLDEN/ VALLEY STAR

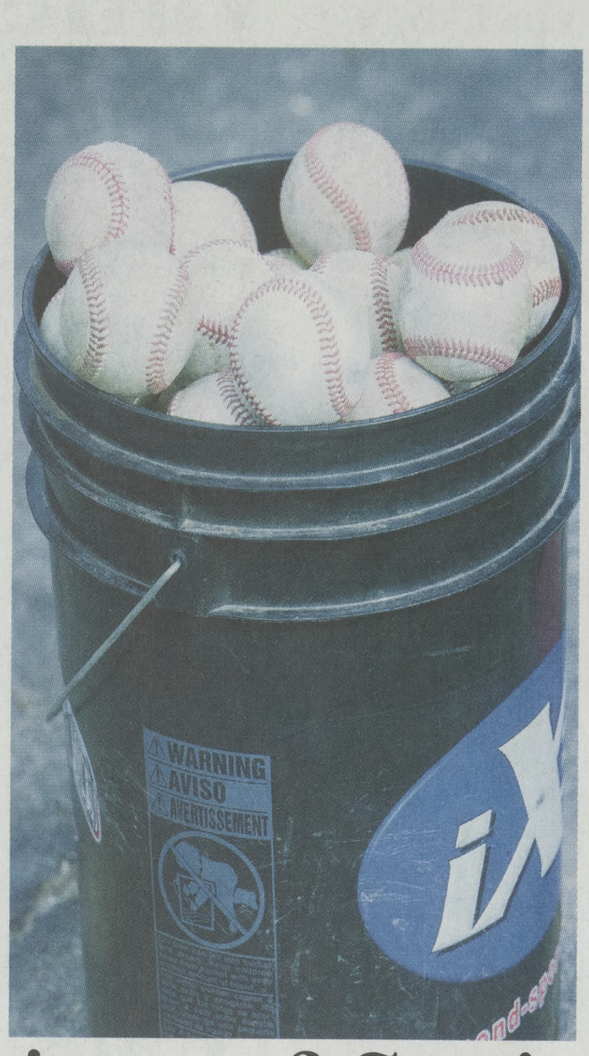
HARDBALL - Valley College pitcher Martin Sarabia delivers a pitch during a game at Cerritos College Friday.

The Monarchs ended the tournament on Monday as they lost to Harbor College 13-5. Julian Gestewitz hit a homerun for the Monarchs but the Seahawks added three homeruns of their own to beat the Monarchs.

The Monarchs move to 5-7 on the season and will play its next home game Thursday against Moorpark College.

GALLERY





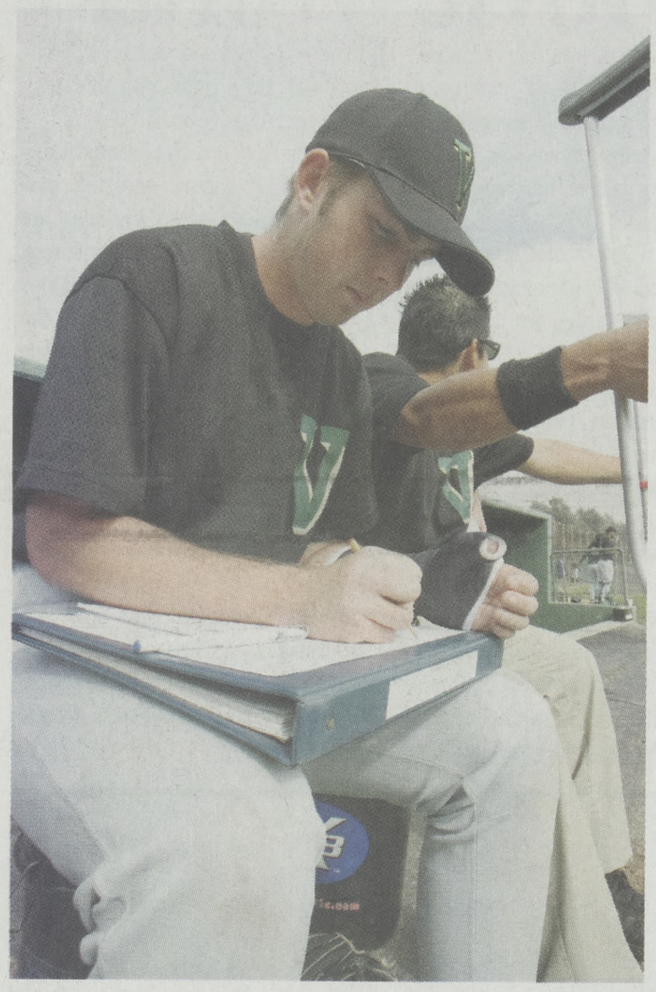
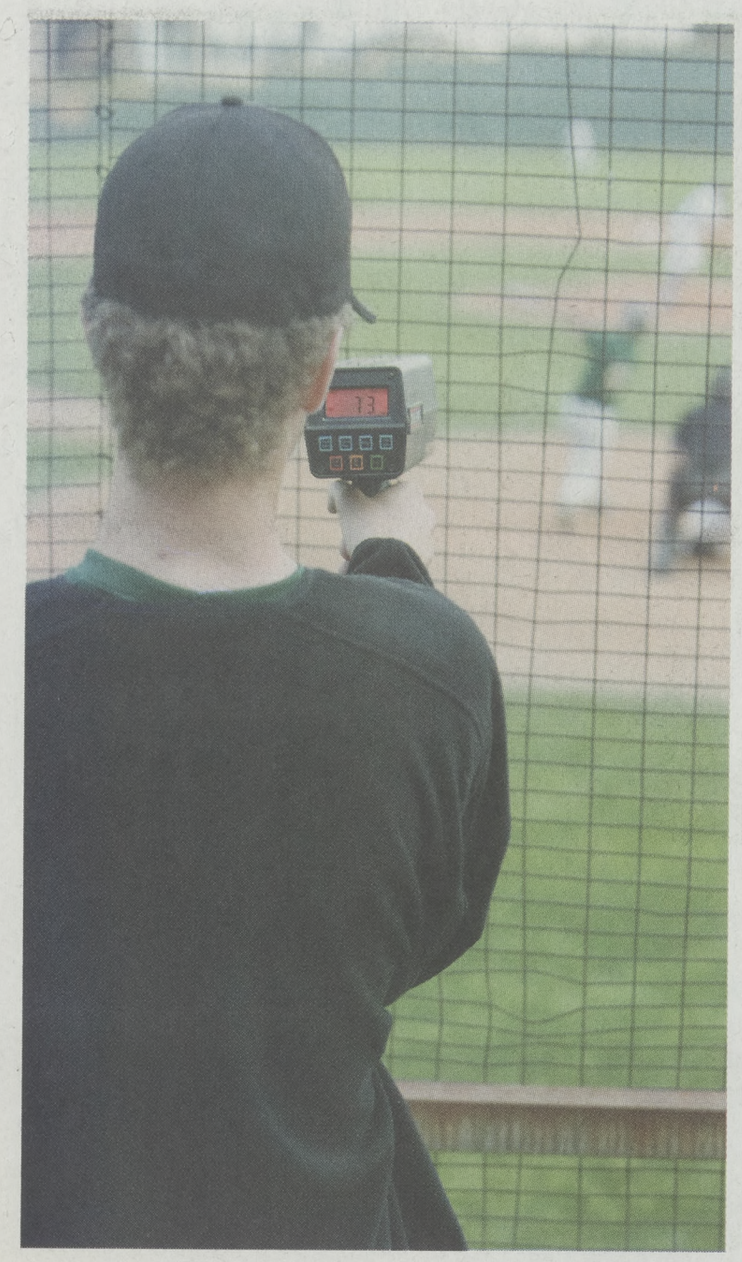
Rites of Spring

The Super Bowl is in the history books, and NBA and NHL teams are jockeying for playoff positions. But spring is almost here because the sporting clocks around the country say it's time for baseball.

So get your scorecards ready and your vocal chords in shape for letting the umpires know "they missed one."

And don't forget the sunflower seeds--a dugout staple from Little League to the Majors.

The radar guns clock the pitchers, who'll go through a bucket of balls seeking just the right one, the one that has the feel of a winner.

"Play ball" America! Baseball is back.

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